
UN Human Rights Council
48th Session, 20 September 2021

Item 3: ID with IE on the Rights of Older Persons

Ambassador Meirav Eilon Shahrar
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva

Thank you, Madam President.

We would like to thank the Independent Expert for her report.

Israel believes that tackling ageism and age discrimination is of utmost importance.

The Covid-19 Pandemic, as explained by the Independent Expert, has exacerbated these phenomena and revealed the protection gaps for this - and I quote *“chronically invisible segment of the population”*.

Israel thanks the mandate-holder for providing a clear definition of ageism and showing how it is internalized and may turn into a structural issue.

Moreover, we agree with her on considering age as a social construct. Therefore, we must recognize the intersectionality that older persons may suffer, including with disability, gender, race, and sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression. The consequences to each group suffering from multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination highlight the need to take urgent action to eradicate it.

Madam President,

We also thank the Independent Expert for her recommendations, particularly the call to apply a human rights-based approach and to listen to the voices of older persons as part of the transformative process. We look forward to working together towards their implementation.

I thank you.